

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services
To: Cabinet Member for Education, Health and Reform,
Subject: New primary school at Finberry, Cheeseman's Green, Ashford
Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education and Young People's Services Committee – Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Andrew Wickham, Ashford Rural East and Mike Angell, Ashford Rural South.

Summary: This report sets out the financial implications for KCC.

Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations on the decision to:

- (i) Allocate £6million from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget.
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 identified the need for a new two-form entry primary school at Finberry, Cheeseman's Green in the Ashford district. Our Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) identified a second need; that is for more specialist resource base provisions (SRBP) for pupils with Behavioural, Emotional and Social Needs (BESN).
- 1.2 The Local Authority sought promoters for the new academy and Stour Academy Trust were chosen by the Secretary of State for Education to promote the new school.
- 1.3 The academy will be established through a funding agreement with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and open on land owned by the local authority.
- 1.4 The new school will also host a specialist resource based provision (SRBP) for up to 14 places for pupils who have greater difficulty learning as a result of Behavioural, Emotional and Social Needs (BESN). Stour Academy Trust will sign a Service Level Agreement (SLA) covering the SRBP.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The proposal requires the provision of a new 2FE school building on the Finberry development, Cheeseman's Green, Ashford.
- a. Capital
The total cost for the new school project is estimated to be £6 million. The costs of the project are estimates and these may increase as the project is developed. If the cost of the project is greater than 10% the Cabinet Member will be required to take a further decision to allocate the additional funding.
- b. Revenue
- i. Furniture and Equipment - £6,000 per classroom will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the new school's leadership team for them to undertake procurement.
- ii. Start up Costs: KCC will provide a budget of £50,000 for start-up costs which will typically commence from January through to 31 August prior to the new school opening on 1 September 2015. This is to cover the costs of employing appropriate staff. On opening, the new school will be funded directly by the Education Funding Agency.
- iii. Pupil Growth Funding: In accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum, the school will receive guaranteed funding as follows:
- Year 1 - 90 pupils
 - Year 2 - 120 pupils
 - Year 3 - 150 pupils
- c) Human – The school will appoint additional teachers and support staff as required.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 3.1 This proposal will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places” as set out in ‘Bold Steps for Education’.
- 3.2 The Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 set out the additional demand for school places to be met by commissioning additional places across Kent.
- 3.3 Kent County Council's strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and who are disabled (SEND) identified the need to add 275 additional SEN places in Kent for pupils with Autism and Behavioural Needs.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

- 4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was completed as part of the process to seek Academy promoters. To date no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

5. Delegation to Officers

- 5.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution, provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it. For information it is envisaged, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to consider and endorse the recommendations on the decision to:

- (i) Allocate £6 million from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget in order that the proposal may go ahead.
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

8. Contact details:

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11. Background Documents:

Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/bold-steps-for-kent>

Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision>

Strategy for Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/KELSI/supporting-pupil-learning/SEN/SEN/FINAL%20Strategy%20for%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20with%20Special%20Educational%20Needs%20and%20Disabilities.pdf>

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

For publication

Subject: New primary school at Finberry, Cheeseman’s Green, Ashford

Decision:
As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to:

- (i) Allocate £6 million from the Education and Young People’s Services Capital Budget in order that the proposal may go ahead.
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

Reason(s) for decision:
 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2015-19 identified the need for a new 2FE primary school at Finberry, Cheeseman’s Green, Ashford.

Financial Implications:

- a. Capital
 The total cost for the new school project is estimated to be £6 million. The costs of the project are estimates and these may increase as the project is developed. If the cost of the project is greater than 10% the Cabinet Member will be required to take a further decision to allocate the additional funding.
- b. Revenue
 - i. Furniture and Equipment - £6,000 per classroom will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the new school’s leadership team for them to undertake procurement.
 - ii. Start-up Costs: KCC will provide a budget of £50,000 for start-up costs which will typically commence from January through to 31 August prior to the new school opening on 1 September 2015. This is to cover the costs of employing appropriate staff. On opening, the new school will be funded directly by the Education Funding Agency.
 - iii. Pupil Growth Funding: In accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools’ Funding Forum, the school will receive guaranteed funding as follows:
 - Year 1 - 90 pupils
 - Year 2 - 120 pupils
 - Year 3 - 150 pupils
- c) Human – The school will appoint additional teachers and support staff as required.

Any alternatives considered:
 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19 explored all options and the establishment of this new school was deemed the most suitable and sustainable option.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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Signed

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Date